

THE DAILY BEE

R. ROSEWATER, Editor.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION
Daily and Sunday, One Year, \$10.00
Six Months, \$6.00
Three Months, \$3.50
Single Copies, 10 Cents
Weekly, One Year, \$3.00
Weekly, One Year with Premium, \$3.50

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Omaha, Bee Building
Chicago Office, 107 Broadway Building
New York, 107 Broadway Building
Washington, 107 Broadway Building
Council Bluffs, 107 Broadway Building
Lincoln, 107 Broadway Building
South Omaha, 107 Broadway Building

CORRESPONDENCE
All communications relating to news and editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor.

BUSINESS LETTERS
All business letters and notices should be addressed to The Bee Publishing Company, Omaha, Nebraska.

The Bee Publishing Company, Proprietors
The Building Between and Seventh Streets

The Bee on the Trains
There is no excuse for a failure to get the Bee on the trains. All newspapers have been notified to carry a full supply. Travelers who want the Bee and can't get it on trains where other Omaha papers are carried are requested to notify The Bee.

Please be particular to give in all cases full information as to date, railway and number of train.
Give us your name, not for publication or unnecessary use, but as a guarantee of good faith.

THE DAILY BEE
Sworn Statement of Circulation.

County of Douglas, ss.
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DESTRUCTION BY FIRE.

The present year will be one of the most memorable in the history of the country for disaster from fire, and quite without parallel is the Chicago fire of 1871 and the Boston conflagration of 1872 excepted. The destruction of a large part of the best portions of Seattle and Spokane Falls, the burning over of nearly a square mile of the business portion of Lynn, Massachusetts, and lastly the disastrous fire in Boston, make a record of loss, aggregating nearly or quite fifty million dollars, not exceeded in any other year save the two above noted. The wiping out of so large an amount of property in a single year is a very serious calamity.

In the case of the western cities the extent of the destruction found an explanation in the fact that the facilities for extinguishing fire were inadequate, but both Lynn and Boston have thoroughly equipped and efficient fire departments, with an abundant water supply, yet in both cities the fires easily got beyond control and were extinguished only when there was no more combustible material in the pathway of the flames. Among the suggestions of these events the one of principal importance is the necessity of better precautions against fire in building, particularly in the business portions of cities. No building should be constructed in the heart of a city that is not as nearly as possible fire-proof, and this is a matter which every community should regulate and vigorously enforce. Certain requirements with regard to building are provided in all cities, but we are not aware that in any the fire-proof condition is imposed. Ordinances provide that within certain districts no wooden structures shall be built, but the evidence is ample that this sort of protection does not furnish complete security. Buildings whose walls are of stone or brick, but whose interior construction is of combustible material, burn almost as freely as those constructed wholly of wood, and when a fire gets full headway in such a building it is the most difficult to handle and the most dangerous to firemen. It is obviously for the general interest that all buildings, for business or other purposes, constructed in the heart of a city, shall be required to be as far as practicable fire-proof. Individual interest or economy should not be allowed to jeopardize the general welfare.

The destructive fires of the year will make heavy inroads upon the surplus of insurance companies, but this is perhaps not the most serious of their effects. The growth and prosperity of Seattle and Spokane Falls have been materially retarded by their fires, and in numerous individual cases the losses may never be recovered. Such visitations must always do irreparable injury to some. This conflagration in Lynn and Boston will compel thousands of persons to be idle during the winter, with consequent hardship and privation to many. From every point of view these destructive visitations are calamitous, and the only compensation to be hoped from them is in heeding the lesson they furnish of the necessity of better precautions for averting them.

NEW ENGLAND'S PROBLEMS.

The people of New England are confronted by two problems to which they are giving very serious consideration. One of these is the preservation of their iron industries, which have been steadily declining for the last ten years, until they are now said to be not more than forty per cent of what they were a decade ago. The other is the restoration of their agricultural interest, which has reached a very low stage of decline. It would be difficult to determine which of these problems is of the greater importance. They are indeed closely related, so that the solution of one would have an important effect toward solving the other. If the declining industries can be preserved from ruin and restored to their former productiveness, or nearly so, it might reasonably be expected that an improvement in the agricultural conditions would follow. It is interesting to observe that New England sentiment has become largely concentrated upon one means of relief, a revision of the tariff. The iron manufacturers of New England are unanimous in saying that the preservation of their industries depends upon Congress giving them free raw materials. They assert in unqualified terms that if the duties are retained on coal, coke, and ore it is a matter of only a short time when the manufacture of iron in all the New England States must be abandoned. As stated by Governor Ames